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The results of an extended and valuable anthropometrical investigation have been recently published by Dr. Ales Hrdlicka, who measured and examined the thousand white and colored children in the New York Juvenile Asylum and the hundred colored children of the New York Colored Orphan Asylum. The object of the investigation was "to learn as much as possible about the physical state of the children who are being admitted and kept in juvenile asylums. In the second place, this study is a part of the general anthropometrical work of the author, and thus expected to result in an addition to our knowledge of the normal child and of several classes of children who are, morally or otherwise, abnormal." The plan of arrangement of the records obtained will show the scope of the work. 1. General data on the total of subjects. 2. Detailed study; children in this group are separated according to their color, sexes, and ages. 3. Physical differences between white and colored children of both sexes and different ages. 4. Children of different nationalities. 5. Children without any physical defects, with their family and individual histories. 6. Children with five or more physical abnormalities. 7. Vicious and criminal children. 8. Children whose parents were intemperate, prostitute, or criminal. 9. Children both of whose parents are dead. 10. Children one or both of whose parents died of consumption.

F. R.

PSYCHOLOGY.

"The Dawn of Reason." — Dr. Weir has written an exceedingly readable book in his *Dawn of Reason*,[1] and one important for the large results it presents of personal study of the simpler forms of life, and of original research upon the nature of their sensory processes. As its chief title indicates, the aim of the work is to trace back mental traits to their origins, and to point out their earliest manifestations in the scale of animal life.

In ten chapters the author treats the Senses in the Lower Animals, to which he adds two auxiliaries, Color-change and the Homing Sense; Teleological Reactions, including Simulation of Death; Memory, Emotion, Æstheticism, and Parental Affection.

It is difficult to estimate the value of the author's results, since the conditions under which they were obtained are so meagerly given. For the appraisal of such work it is of the first importance that the reader should know that the conditions of experimentation were beyond cavil, for in any scientific investigation the whole significance of the evidence may turn upon the observance of apparently slight precautions, and scarcely a hint is here given of the methods and control of conditions by the investigator. The book is throughout — if we except the detailed and patient analysis of nervous structure and sensory processes in the lower orders of life — rather observational than experimental, and the author is inclined to rely upon an interpretation of significant incidents instead of extended and systematic tests.

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[1] Weir, James Jr., M.D. *The Dawn of Reason;* or, Mental Traits in the Lower Animals. New York, Macmillan. 8vo, pp. 234.

In regard to several of the author's conclusions criticism may be entered. Dr. Weir has made many interesting observations concerning the location and acuteness of the sensory organs in the lower animals, but when among these senses he proposes to include tinctumutation and letisimulation, I must demur. Color-change is a reaction upon a particular environment, not a perception of the nature of that environment, and is no more a sensory process than is the flight of an insect to escape the sudden leap of a toad. Sensory is contrasted with motor as perception with reaction. The color-change may depend upon a sensory stimulus as does the action of the insect escaping the toad, and the function may cease upon the extirpation of certain nerve centers, — either sensory, by which it becomes insensible to the change in the environment, or motor, by which it becomes unable to adapt itself to that change, — but it is not, therefore, more of a sensory process than is the reactive adjustment of the insect. The writer must go much farther than this to prove his point, for the establishment of a connection between motor function and nerve-center activity does not evince even the existence of an accompanying sensory process. The whole function might be a reflex form of activity without accompanying consciousness.

Dr. Weir objects to calling this function an instinctive one, but unless he should maintain that it is an adjustment empirically acquired by the individual, in thus establishing its dependence upon a sensory process he has but proved its analogy to all instincts, which are essentially perception-reactions, and differ from acquired habits only in the nature of their origin. The impulse may or may not be accompanied by awareness of its significance, but this comment in no way affects its character as an instinctive impulse.

In his treatment of letisimulation the author reduces it to the type of the color-changing function, a perception-reaction of teleological fitness under the given environmental conditions. He conceives it throughout as a true simulation, a "device," "pretense," or feigning; but this is by no means an indisputable conclusion. It overlooks the theory that the simulation of death is a true syncope, the temporary paralysis of the nervous system being induced by sudden shock — a theory which views the process as an advantageous adaptation to the environment, but not a designed adjustment to it. This conception is apparently overlooked in the book, yet in view of the conflict of evidence, no investigator is justified in putting it aside unconsidered. Preyer regards the whole phenomenon of letisimulation in insects as due to cataplexy, and Romanes, while commenting favorably upon this opinion, cites other authorities who interpret after the same fashion the feigning of death in the higher vertebrates as well.

ROBERT MACDOUGALL.

The Methods of Comparative Psychology.[1] — In his *Dawn of Reason,* Dr. Weir's sympathetic interpretation carries him, I am inclined to think, too far in his ascription to lower orders of life of processes and methods analogous to those of human mental activity. It is possible to read too little of psychical accompaniment into the animal's actions, as in the extreme type of Cartesian automatism, and it is possible also to read too much. To illustrate with an incident at hand: A Boston lady had a pet house-dog whose favorite snoozing-place was a certain cushioned chair. If his mistress needed the chair and found him occupying it, instead of roughly ejecting him, her method was to adopt the ruse of calling him to the window by pointing to something in the street and telling him to watch, whereupon she would take possession of the coveted seat. One day, while seated in the chair herself, the dog came into the room, and after nosing about for a moment, ran to the window, gazed up and down the street and began barking excitedly. His mistress soon arose and came over to seek the cause of the dog's alarm. Unable to discover anything, she turned away toward her easy-chair again, but only to behold the little animal snugly curled upon it in oblivion and content. Reasoning from analogy between the actions of the dog and those of his mistress, one would say that he had deliberately made use of artifice to obtain possession of the seat. The only facts contributed by the incident itself, however, are the barking

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[1] Mills, Wesley. The Nature of Animal Intelligence and the Methods of Investigating It, *Psychological Review,* vol. vi, No. 3, May, 1899.